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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3348th meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 March 1994, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "Navigation on the Danube river in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has taken note of the letters dated 10 and 14 March 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In these documents, his Government acknowledges that the Bulgarian convoy, the Han Kubrat, composed of six barges transporting 6,000 tons of diesel oil on the Danube entered the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on the morning of 6 March 1994 at the Port of Prahovo. The Government also recognizes that the cargo was unloaded and that the convoy returned to Bulgaria without it.

"The Security Council most strongly condemns this flagrant violation of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council prohibiting the shipment of commodities and products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). It holds the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) fully accountable for the non-return of the cargo of the Han Kubrat.

"The Security Council welcomes the cooperative attitude of the Bulgarian Government. It calls upon the authorities of Bulgaria to assess the precise circumstances of this act and to prosecute those responsible for it.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance it attaches to free and unimpeded navigation on the Danube, which is essential to legitimate commerce in the region. It again stresses that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have undertaken in writing to guarantee the freedom and security of navigation on this crucial international waterway. It invites them to respect scrupulously their commitments in this regard.

"The Security Council stands ready to address the issue again in the future."

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